

The liberal extremists have fought Ronald Reagan, they fought George Bush, they have fought us all the way along. Now when it comes a time when we have an opportunity to really get a balanced budget, they are on this floor fighting again.

Mr. Speaker, we need a balanced budget. Now is the time to get one.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). The Chair would state that under the rules of the House, the gentleman cannot be recognized for a point of personal privilege based on debate during 1-minute speeches.

TIME TO BALANCE BUDGET IS NOW

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, we have heard about CR's and debt limits, all of this minutia, and we all know this is not what this fight is about. It is about whether we are going to leave for our children and theirs a better future than what our parents left for us.

Each succeeding generation in America has left for its children and its grandchildren a brighter future for them, and what are we leaving for our children? Five trillion dollars' worth of debt. That is what we are doing.

We have heard every excuse in the world why we cannot balance the budget for 30 years. We have heard every Washington gimmick used why we cannot do it. The time is now. We are going to balance the budget to save the future for my girls, my two teenage girls, and every kid of America.

NOTHING THAT HAPPENS TODAY WILL BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLAKE. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania, after I spoke, talked about liberal extremists and the balanced budget. As one who has voted on numerous occasions for the balanced budget constitutional amendment, as one who voted for the Stenholm balanced budget that did not pass, and as one who voted for the coalition budget which would balance the budget in 7 years, faster than the budget offered by the other side, I do not believe that I fall in that category.

I say again, nothing that happens today will balance the budget, whether

the President signs the continuing resolution or not. The fact of the matter is there would be no necessity for a continuing resolution if this House and the Senate had passed appropriation bills in a timely fashion. They cannot agree. They have not done that, and that is why we are here as we are.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House a communication from the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 14, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted today by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. One resolution approves construction of protective works at the South Water Treatment Plant in Chicago, Illinois, pursuant to section 201 of the Flood Control Act of 1965. The remaining resolutions authorize studies of potential water resources projects by the Secretary of the Army in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act of March 4, 1913, and other statutes.

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER, *Chairman.*

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which a vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV. Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after the debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the results, but not before 5 p.m. today.

□ 1430

ELECTRONIC FILING AND PRESERVATION OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION REPORTS

Mr. THOMAS, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2527), to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to improve the electoral process by permitting electronic filing and preservation of Federal Election Commission reports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2527

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELECTRONIC FILING AND PRESERVATION OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION REPORTS.

(a) SECTION 304 AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(1)(A) The Commission shall permit reports required by this Act to be filed and preserved by means of computer disk or any other appropriate electronic format or method, as determined by the Commission.

“(B) In carrying out subparagraph (A) with respect to filing of reports, the Commission shall provide for one or more methods (other than requiring a signature on the report being filed) for verifying reports filed by means of computer disk or other electronic format or method. Any verification under the preceding sentence shall be treated for all purposes (including penalties for perjury) in the same manner as a verification by signature.

“(C) As used in this paragraph, the term ‘report’ means, with respect to the Commission, a report, designation, or statement required by this Act to be filed with the Commission.”.

(b) SECTION 302 AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 302 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “for any report filed in electronic format under section 304(a)(1), the treasurer shall retain a machine-readable copy of the report as the copy preserved under the preceding sentence.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) and subsection (b) shall apply with respect to reports for periods beginning after December 31, 1996.

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF DUPLICATE FILING REQUIREMENT FOR STATES WITH ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION REPORTS AND STATEMENTS.

Section 312 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 439) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) Subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply with respect to any State that, as determined by the Commission, has a system that permits electronic access to, and duplication of, reports and statements that are filed with the Commission.”.

SEC. 3. FILING OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION REPORTS WITH THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, RATHER THAN WITH THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) SECTION 302 AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (g) of section 302 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking out paragraph (1);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively;

(3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection—

(A) by striking out “Clerk of the House of Representatives and the”; and

(B) by striking out “them” and inserting in lieu thereof “the Secretary”;

(4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking out “paragraphs (1) and (2)” and inserting in lieu thereof “Paragraph (1)”; and

(5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking out “Clerk of the House of Representatives and the”.

(b) SECTION 304 AMENDMENTS.—Section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434) is amended

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a)(6), by striking out “Clerk, the Secretary,” and inserting in lieu thereof “Secretary”; and

(2) in the third sentence of subsection (c)(2), by striking out "Clerk, the Secretary," and inserting in lieu thereof "Secretary".

(c) SECTION 311 AMENDMENT.—Section 311(a)(4) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 438(a)(4)) is amended by striking out "Clerk, Secretary," and inserting in lieu thereof "Secretary".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to reports, designations, and statements required to be filed after December 31, 1995.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] will be recognized for 20 minutes and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2527 changes both the way in which candidate committees and other committees can file with the Federal Election Commission and it removes an impediment to the public's right to know as soon as possible the information surrounding a candidate in that candidate's report if the candidate is running for the House of Representatives.

H.R. 2527 passed the Committee on House Oversight unanimously. What we did was to examine the current way in which candidates and incumbent Members of the House file their campaign reports with the FEC.

First of all, they do not file the reports with the FEC, they file them with the Clerk of the House. The Clerk of the House then forwards the reports of all of the candidates, incumbents as well as challengers, to the FEC. What occurs is a delay of up to 3 days where the public does not know what is in those reports.

H.R. 2527 does away with the requirement that candidates for Congress, both incumbents and challengers, file with the Clerk of the House. Under H.R. 2527, candidates will file directly with the FEC as other committees are required to file.

In addition to that, it seems to me that campaigns are now run sufficiently using electronic technology that candidates who so choose—there is no requirement—but if candidates choose to file with the FEC, the FEC should accept those filings electronically, beginning in 1997. This reform continues to update the capabilities of the FEC so that as more and more campaign information is stored electronically and reported electronically, the information in those candidates' reports can be turned over to the public more quickly. It seems to me that the FEC should be, first of all, given the opportunity to allow people to file electronically and the Committee on House Oversight will then review how successful that procedure has been.

Since we are allowing the FEC to require candidates to file records with the FEC electronically, we also then

waive the requirement that committees file with a State that also files electronically, since that would duplicate materials.

So H.R. 2527, although not a comprehensive piece of legislation, I think nevertheless begins the 104th Congress as the new majority's examination of the way in which we run campaigns.

Although the committee is continuing to hold hearings on a larger issue of candidates and their running for office, in this particular area, with the ability to file electronically, to waive duplication where filing electronically is involved, and to remove an impediment to the public's right to know, it seems to me that we have taken a modest, but positive, step forward, and I would urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2527.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the distinguished gentleman from California in supporting H.R. 2527.

This is a measure which allows more efficient and cost-effective procedures and which will substantially benefit both the public and congressional candidates.

H.R. 2527 would require House candidate committees to file directly with the Federal Election Commission, thus eliminating the current procedure of filing first with the Clerk of the House. This would become effective December 31 of this year and will speed up the FEC's ability to receive, process, and disclose campaign committee information. Members would continue to have immediate access to filing data. The media and the public will be able to retrieve candidate committee information in a more timely fashion.

The bill also allows the Commission to receive electronically filed campaign reports from candidates and political committees. At the moment this is not a requirement, strictly a voluntary procedure which will go into effect December 31, 1996.

Finally, as States obtain the necessary retrieval equipment, candidates and committees will no longer have to duplicate all their filings within their respective States. This burdensome redundancy will be eliminated without any loss of information, as all candidate and committee data will be immediately available from the FEC.

There are a number of benefits associated with this legislation. The Clerk's Office has estimated saving some \$500,000. States, candidates, and committees will all save money.

But the biggest winner will be the public's more rapid access to campaign reports.

Now there will be some costs to the Federal Election Commission, particularly in the startup and staffing of the point of entry section of the bill.

At our committee hearing on October 25, Chairman THOMAS noted that both the authorizing and appropriating committees had set aside \$1.5 million in fiscal year 1996 for the FEC to update its internal computer capabilities. The Commission has indicated that it can handle whatever additional costs are required for implementing H.R. 2527 if it has access to this \$1.5 million, although, obviously, its internal modernization program will be slowed to the extent these funds are used for other purposes.

There has been some confusion in the various exchanges that have taken place between the Oversight and the Appropriations Committees in order to bring about agreement on this legislation, but I believe we have now reached an understanding.

The minority has made it clear from the beginning that our support for this bill, whose concepts we strongly endorse, is predicated on full funding. No matter how desirable single point of entry is, we are not going to be party to any attempt to further weaken the FEC in carrying out its mandated duties.

We have worked hard to move this legislation forward and we do not want any misunderstandings. The Federal Election Commission has already taken two deep budget cuts—a \$1.4 million rescission out of its fiscal year 1995 budget, and over another million cut from its fiscal year 1996 authorization—which was \$1.5 million below the Commission's bottom-line request.

Mr. Speaker, last week Chairman THOMAS initiated a series of hearings on campaign finance reform legislation. Our first witnesses included the Speaker, the minority leader, and more than a dozen Members. It was an excellent hearing, and there will be more and Chairman THOMAS is to be commended.

This bill is a small part of campaign finance reform, but it is a step forward. The ability of the Federal Election Commission to fully carry out its responsibilities of disclosure, audit, and enforcement is a big part of campaign finance reform. The FEC is the public's policeman for campaign contributions and spending. There is no intent that this legislation should in anyway interfere with the Commission's ability to fully perform its duties during the crucial upcoming election year, or to use any funds other than the fenced-off \$1.5 million for purposes of implementing this legislation.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a statement by the ranking member, the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO], and a copy of a letter dated November 9, 1995, from the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, to Mr. Danny McDonald, Chairman of the Federal Election Commission.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the distinguished gentleman from California in supporting H.R. 2527.

This is a measure which allows more efficient and cost-effective procedures and which will substantially benefit both the public and congressional candidates.

H.R. 2527 would require House candidate committees to file directly with the Federal Election Commission, thus eliminating the current procedure of filing first with the Clerk of the House. This would become effective December 31 of this year and will speed up the FEC's ability to receive, process, and disclose campaign committee information. Members would continue to have immediate access to filing data. The media and the public will be able to retrieve candidate committee information in a more timely fashion.

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There has been some confusion in the various exchanges that have taken place between the Oversight and the Appropriations Committees in order to bring about agreement on this legislation, but I believe we have now reached an understanding.

I want to thank Mr. LIVINGSTON, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, for his cooperation, and I want to give special recognition to my colleague, STENY HOYER.

Mr. HOYER, who is ranking member on the Appropriations' Treasury and Postal Affairs Subcommittee, has always been a strong supporter of the Federal Election Commission and of campaign reform. He has played a key role in working out the details on the funding for this legislation.

The minority has made it clear from the beginning that our support for this bill, whose concepts we strongly endorse, is predicated on full funding. No matter how desirable single point of entry is, we are not going to be party to any attempt to further weaken the FEC in carrying out its mandated duties.

We have worked hard to move this legislation forward and we do not want any mis-

understandings. The Federal Election Commission has already taken two deep budget cuts—a \$1.4 million recession out of its fiscal year 1995 budget, and over another million cut from its fiscal year 1996 authorization—which was \$1.5 million below the Commission's bottom-line request.

Mr. Speaker, last week Chairman THOMAS initiated a series of hearings on campaign finance reform legislation. Our first witnesses included the Speaker, the minority leader, and more than a dozen Members. It was an excellent hearing, and there will be more and Chairman THOMAS is to be commended.

This bill is a small part of campaign finance reform, but it is a step forward. The ability of the Federal Election Commission to fully carry out its responsibilities of disclosure, audit, and enforcement is a big part of campaign finance reform. The FEC is the public's policeman for campaign contributions and spending. There is no intent that this legislation should in anyway interfere with the Commission's ability to fully perform its duties during the crucial upcoming election year, or to use any funds other than the fenced-off \$1.5 million for purposes of implementing this legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, November 9, 1995.

Mr. DANNY L. McDONALD,
Chairman, Federal Election Commission, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Following up on my letter of November 2, 1995, I am pleased to learn the FEC can assume single point of entry without adding to current full time employment levels. Based on staff conversations, it is my understanding that FEC will accomplish single point of entry by reassigning employees and contracting out work, if necessary. I also understand that FEC is not able to provide the Committee with a cost estimate for contracting out this work at this time but would appreciate the FEC forwarding such an estimate, when available.

Again, let me state that I support using a portion of the \$1.5 million fenced in FY 1996 for internal ADP modernization on electronic filing initiatives such as those authorized in H.R. 2527. I am confident that single point of entry can be achieved within the CBO cost estimate of less than \$500,000 in FY 1996 and FEC cost estimates of \$400,000–\$500,000. I encourage you to keep the Committee informed of any deviation from these estimates.

Sincerely,

BOB LIVINGSTON,
Chairman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] indicated that perhaps there had been some difficulty in communication between the policy committee, which is the Committee on House Oversight, and the Committee on Appropriations.

I would say to the gentleman that perhaps the confusion was more in the eye of the beholder, and in listening to various dollar amounts that we are discussing vis-a-vis the FEC, I do think we would be remiss if we do not put on the record that by closing down the House Clerk operation for review of all of those campaign reports, we are going to be saving more than half a

million dollars a year. Although we certainly do want to look at savings in any particular one area, we also have to look at the larger picture.

Mr. Speaker, I believe practice that cost the Clerk's Office a half a million dollars per year for a needless and unnecessary slowdown in the public's access to the information that is in campaign reports is a practice that needed to be ended for a long time. With this new majority, we are ending that practice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

(Mr. LIVINGSTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding, and I rise in support of H.R. 2527, which will allow candidates' campaign committees to electronically file campaign reports with the Federal Election Commission. This is an issue that I have supported for many years, and I believe that it is a good thing that it is coming before the House at this time.

The bill also requires House candidates to file reports directly with the FEC instead of with the Clerk of the House.

I want to commend my friend Mr. THOMAS, for bringing this common-sense bill to the House floor and thank the ranking minority member, Mr. FAZIO, and in his absence the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER, both of whom have been very cooperative with this timely issue.

The bill allows the FEC to move into the computer age by accepting the electronic transmission of campaign reports. Candidates will be allowed to cut down on the paper shuffling if they choose to use the electronic system. This process will also speed the reporting of campaign contributions to enhance the voters' access to the disclosure of campaign contributions.

It is important to note that this is a voluntary system. It will not burden campaign committees with mandates if they are not computerized, but it will allow committees to file electronically if it eases their operation.

This bill will also require candidates to file reports directly with the FEC, and this provision will end the absurd system that requires candidates to file campaign reports with the Clerk of the House, and then force the Clerk to keep copies of the reports and make micro-filmed copies to send to the FEC, and then the FEC would print hard copies of the reports from the Clerk's micro-film.

The current system is a case study in unnecessary bureaucratic paper shuffling and obviously creates unwanted extra cost. Requiring candidates to file directly with the FEC will end the confusion and the outrageous duplication of the effort.

The FEC will work with original filings instead of the blurred copies which

make it more difficult for the FEC to electronically scan the information. It will also save thousands of dollars in the Clerk's office.

This bill may have prompted some confusion, as has been alleged earlier, on how the FEC would implement the bill, but I am pleased that the FEC now has clarified their earlier request and that they are not pushing for more employees to accomplish this single point of entry.

I want to reiterate that I support using a portion of the \$1.5 million fenced in fiscal year 1996 for the computer modernization on electronic filing initiatives such as those authorized in H.R. 2527. I am confident that single point of entry can be achieved for less than the CBO cost estimate of a half a million dollars, and the FEC's estimate of between \$400,000 to \$500,000 makes sense.

This bill will speed disclosure, reduce duplication and move the FEC toward computer modernization. I encourage my colleagues to give it their full support.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS], a valued member of the Committee on House Oversight.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 2527. Just 2 years ago I ran for Congress for the first time. I was very surprised when the time came to file the first campaign finance report and discovered that I had to file a copy with the secretary of state in the State of Michigan and a copy with the Clerk of the House. I just assumed that the report would go to the FEC. I did not realize it would take a few days for them to get it.

What amazed me even more is that when the news media wanted to find out what we had expended on the campaign, they did not go to the secretary of state of Michigan, they did not go to the Clerk of the House, and of course they could not get it from the FEC; they came to our campaign office and we had to run off multiple copies for the media.

□ 1445

This bill will cure those problems. The report will be filed with the agency that is responsible of reviewing it, the FEC. That is where it appropriately belongs. Even more importantly, we can file by electronic means. I certainly will take advantage of that. It will save a lot of work, it will save a lot of postage, and it will certainly speed up the time that the press will have to spend scanning these particular reports.

Once again Mr. Speaker, I believe it is an excellent bill and I rise in strong support of this bill. I encourage its passage.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, we are pleased to support this, but I would reiterate my personal concern, and I believe the concern of our side of the aisle, that as we save, as the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] has pointed out, \$500,000, or thereabouts, from the Clerk's office, and we transfer the responsibility of unified point of entry and first entry into the FEC, it is, I think, agreed on both sides that there will be an additional cost to the FEC.

We have provided, by correspondence more than legislation, that of the \$1.5 million for computerization, a portion of that can be used for the purposes of carrying out this additional responsibility that we transfer from the Clerk's office to the FEC.

We have no opposition to that, but I would like to observe that we must carefully review the capacity of the FEC to do those things which the public expects it to do. This will be a step in the right direction. But it will only be a step in the right direction if they have the capacity to do the job from an administrative standpoint, enter the data properly, have it accessible easily, and be able to respond to the public's questions.

I will be looking as a member of both the authorizing and the appropriating subcommittees that have responsibility to oversee FEC at the impact that this additional responsibility has on them with a view next year to make sure that they have sufficient funds to carry out what the American public believe to be an absolutely essential task of knowing where money comes from, where it goes, and what relationship, if any, it has to policy.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from Maryland did not mean to misspeak in his concluding comments, but this is not an additional responsibility for the FEC. The FEC now has the responsibility to receive and record all campaign reports.

This is a timing question. Because, notwithstanding current procedure, where the campaign reports are filed with the clerk of the House first, they are nevertheless still eventually transferred to the FEC. So this is not, I repeat, not an additional responsibility for the FEC. It is merely a question of timing.

The FEC enjoyed, as we say, the float. The fact that the clerk was the one who received at the appropriate deadline the reports, enabled the FEC to buy some time to do other work that was required under the law by the deadline and then begin to receive, 1 to 3 days after the deadline, the materials from the clerk.

This procedure could have been changed in any previous Congress. But it was convenient for folk. It was useful to have a system for holding reports in an area where that report could be retrieved by candidates, to be changed, to be reviewed, and then submitted to the FEC.

It seems to me the fundamental responsibility is the deadline and the public's right to know. The practice that H.R. 2527 eliminates is that float time. It does away with the convenience that the FEC had for a number of years of not having to deal with its responsibilities at the given deadline.

So when we talk about costs to the FEC, quite frankly this is something that should have been corrected a long time ago.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2527, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2527, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1995

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2204) to extend and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2204

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Defense Production Act Amendments of 1995".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.

Section 717(a) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2166(a)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "Title I (except section 104), title III, and title VII (except sections 708, 714, 719, and 721) of this Act, and all authority conferred thereunder shall terminate at the close of September 30, 1995" and inserting "Title I (except section 104), title III, and title VII (except sections 708 and 721), and all authority conferred thereunder, shall terminate at the close of September 30, 1998".

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR TITLE III PROJECTS.

Section 711 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2161) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "(a) AUTHORIZATION.—" and all that follows through "subsection (c).," and inserting "(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in subsection (b),"; and

(2) by striking subsections (b), (c), and (d) and inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection: